

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were presented. This paper amends claims 1, 10 and 11. Support for the amendments can be found generally throughout the specification and specifically on pages 17 and 18. Claims 1-14 remain pending.

Applicants' representative, Attorney Michael Rodriguez, thanks Examiner Ha for her time and courtesy during their telephonic interview on April 26, 2004. During the interview, claim 1 was discussed with reference to U.S. Patent No. 6,487,223 (Tenonaka), which was cited in the February 11, 2004 final Office Action. The Applicants' representative explained that the process of translating an AU-n signal into a TU-n signal causes the AU-n signal to become the TU-n signal; that is, as a result of this translating the AU-n signal ceases to exist, except to the extent that the various components of the AU-n signal, such as the AU-n pointer and AU-payload, are transformed into the pointer and payload of the new TU-n signal.

Accordingly, Applicants herein amend claims 1, 10, and 11 to more clearly recite the step of "translating" an AU-n to a TU-n. In particular, the claimed step instead recites "transforming the AU-n into a TU-n such that the AU-n becomes the TU-n." Moreover, the amended claims further describe this step of "transforming" as including "transforming the AU-n payload to the TU-n payload and transforming the AU-n pointer to the TU-n pointer." Applicants submit that none of the cited references disclose or suggest an AU-n unit becoming a TU-n unit as now set forth in the Applicants' claimed invention.

Also, the Applicants' submitted a Request for Reconsideration on April 12, 2004 that argued the differences between the Applicants' invention and the cited references. However, the Advisory Action indicates that the Request did not put the application in condition for allowance. Notwithstanding, the arguments set forth in the Request are reiterated herein to the extent that such arguments apply to the claims as now currently pending.

CONCLUSION

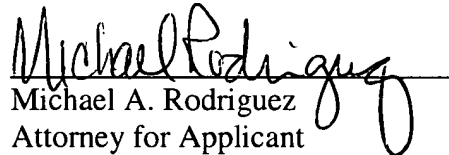
In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicant's representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

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Respectfully submitted,


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